

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-04 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1809

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 3774

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, AORG (VAN LENNEP, EMILE)

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OECD

1. SUMMARY. TAKING ACCOUNT OF NEED TO ASSURE ORDERLY AND WELL-DIRECTED PROGRESS OF OECD, AND IN VIEW OF VAN LENNEP'S HIGHLY SATISFACTORY FIRST-TERM PERFORMANCE, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT USG DECIDE NOW TO SUPPORT VAN LENNEP FOR SECOND TERM AS SECRETARY-GENERAL. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORITY TO INFORM VAN LENNEP OF OUR SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE NOW JUST FEW MONTHS FROM END OF FIRST TERM OF OFFICE FOR EMILE VAN LENNEP AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OECD. RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTIES WHICH ORGANIZATIONS WITH PECULIAR AND DEMANDING CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS IMF AND OECD ENCOUNTER IN FINDING RIGHT PERSON, MISSION BELIEVES THAT DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN VERY NEAR FUTURE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO RENEW VAN LENNEP'S TERM IN SEPTEMBER.

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3. UNTIL RECENTLY, ONLY KNOWN SPOT OF OPPOSITION TOWARD CONTINUING VAN LENNEP IN OFFICE HAS BEEN UNITED KINGDOM. WE ARE NOW INFORMED BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO OECD THAT HMG HAS RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION AND NOW CONCLUDES IT WOULD SUPPORT VAN LENNEP FOR FURTHER FIVE-YEAR TERM. BELIEVE SUPPORT WOULD ALSO BE FORTHCOMING FROM FRANCE AND CANADA, ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR OF LATTER HAS HINTED THAT IF VAN LENNEP WERE REJECTED, CANADA MIGHT TRY TO FIND CANDIDATE.

4. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DID INDEED APPROACH AT LEAST ONE DELEGATION NOT LONG AGO WITH WORD THAT ROME MIGHT CONSIDER PUTTING FORWARD AMBASSADOR ORTONA, WHO IS WELL KNOWN IN WASHINGTON. WE UNDERSTAND ORTONA POSSIBILITY TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT BY BRITISH IN THEIR DECISION, AND IN FACT THEY EXPEDITED THEIR REVIEW IN ORDER TO AVOID ENCOURAGING ITALIANS.

5. IN MISSION VIEW, VAN LENNEP'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE AS SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS BEEN HIGHLY SATISFACTORY. HE HAS WORKED ACTIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY ON THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, HAS PURSUED PRIORITIES WHICH ARE GENERALLY CONGENIAL TO USA, AND HAS WORKED AS COOPERATIVELY AS CONDITIONS PERMITTED WITH ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. WE RECOMMEND THAT OUR SUPPORT BE MADE KNOWN TO HIM AND TO OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE, SO THAT HE CAN MAKE PLANS IN LIGHT OF THAT FACT AND IN ORDER TO REMOVE SUCCESSION ISSUE TO EXTEND POSSIBLE FROM OECD DEBATES IN 1974.  
BROWN

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